

OFFICIAL DISPATCH

VIA: AIR 514
SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH

DISPATCH NO. REDW- 896

SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

APR 8 1952

TO: Chief of Station, ☐

FROM: Deputy Chief (DYCLEAN), NE

SUBJECT: GENERAL- Operational
SPECIFIC- Friedrich Josef BERBER

DATE: _____

The following information was acquired from the DYCLEAN station in London. It is not to be given to PANACEA because of the need to prevent a possible identification of DYCLEAN's relations with the source. We are requesting source to disseminate this information to PANACEA's office direct. The original report was dated 20 December 1951 and was evaluated "reliable."

CONFIDENTIAL
Originating Officer

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES/METHODS/EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

Attachment: Information re
Friedrich Josef BERBER

FWL/ag

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RELEASING OFFICER

Deputy Chief, NE/96

COORDINATING OFFICER

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WEL-24013

- The Visa Section of the U.S. Embassy in London requested a check on subject in connection with his application for a non-immigration visa to the United States. He is joining the Indian Embassy, Washington, and gives as his occupation professor of law and office of the Indian Government. Subject was born 27 November 1898 at Marburg, Hessen, Nr. Frankfurt, Germany, and, though he is in London at the present time, having arrived in the U.K. on 3 December 1951, he gives as his present address Herchenbackstrasse 26, Baden Baden, Germany.
- Since subject has only been in the U.K. for short visits since he was checked with source in September 1946, no recheck was made. The attached summary of the information in the files of this office was compiled for the Visa Section.
- We have a record that Dr. Friedrich BERBER is reported to have been one of the principal members of a group of Germans who devoted much effort to discovering and cultivating circles in Germany favorable to peace and cooperation with the Soviet Union. He is reported to have been president of the Auslandsforschung Institute in Berlin, and subsequently was with the International Red Cross in Geneva. In 1946 he was resident in Constance and practiced law there. His role was to find foreigners who were pro-Soviet or agents for the Soviet and who would normally have been imprisoned by the Gestapo. He would then protect these people and assure them of physical means for their existence. He recruited his people among scholars and writers who had remained or had been caught in Germany by the war.
- Another report states that Dr. BERBER, born 27 November 1895? at Marburg was before the war director of the German Institute for Foreign Political Investigation and later in close contact with *RIBBENTROP, working as an agent of the RIBBENTROP bureau in Switzerland. In 1943 he was appointed Germany representative on the International Red Cross committee in Geneva and at the end of 1944 was reported to have arrived in Switzerland, carrying large sums of money for deposit in Switzerland on RIBBENTROP's behalf. An unconfirmed report in April 1945 stated that he and Adolf SONKENIOL had been appointed to reorganize the Germany Intelligence and sabotage services in France, Belgium and Holland. Evidence is overwhelming that Dr. BERBER did work as a GIS agent.

There is no evidence to confirm or deny allegations about Dr. BERBER's activities in connection with pro-Soviet foreigners. From 1939 to 1943 Dr. BERBER made several visits to England and was in close touch with various British organizations and personalities with pacifist or pro-German leanings and there is substantial evidence to indicate that he worked directly under RIBBENTROP's supervision. It can be assumed that his particular mission was to provide cover for espionage and to exert pressure on British public opinion in favor of a peace settlement. Such a mission would naturally have brought him into touch with the Leftist opposition to the war in England but again

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there is nothing to show that he was a disloyal German. On these journeys to and from the U.K. during this period he described himself as lecturer at the Political College, Berlin, Germany.

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